



March 2007

"EMS Currents"

Sacramento Metro Fire District's EMS Division Newsletter...Will you make a difference today?

Special Interest Articles:

- EMS Coordinator
- EMT I Skills Recert
- Impacted Hospitals
- Drug Boxes
- FYI...

"Never be afraid to try something new...remember, amateurs built the ark but professionals built the Titanic"



EMS Coordinator...

By: Steve Cantelme

Late in the fall of 2006, the Fire Chief and Local 522 representatives agreed to pilot the EMS Coordinator position within the Fire District. The pilot began on November 1, 2006 and is scheduled to end on April 30, 2007. The position is being evaluated during this time in an effort to determine whether or not the position should be funded as a permanent position in the organization.

In an effort to get your feedback regarding this position, you will be asked to complete an electronic survey this month. You will receive the survey via email and a hard copy will be included in the March Training packet. The survey is brief with only eight questions, however we do encourage you to add your comments in the section provided. The survey is part of the March EMS drill so please complete the electronic survey and return it via email to Marcy Mateo as soon as possible. The results of the survey will be tabulated and forwarded to the Fire Chief for his review. After the Fire Chief reviews the result we will forward them for everyone to see.

EMT I Skills Re-cert

By: EMS Staff

March 12-16 are the scheduled dates for the EMT I skills recert testing. We will have four sites set up for the testing - stations 21, 50, 65 & 106 with 2-3 instructors per station. There are approximate 150 EMT I's that need to go through the testing process so it will be a very busy week for all.

Impacted Hospitals

By EMS Staff

Per hospital council agreement, anytime all of the hospitals in a single zone are closed they all are required to open. Not all hospital personnel are aware of this agreement especially those utilizing traveler nurses so please bear with them and contact your EMS Coordinator through your chain of command whenever you have issues with physicians or nurses.

“Progress requires change, but not all change is progress”

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*Don't forget Day
Light Savings time is
March 11
&
for the festive -
St. Patrick's Day is
March 17*

Drug Boxes

By: EMS Staff

The City of Sacramento recently changed their security system for controlled substances to a programmable locking safe that requires each member of the Fire Department to enter their own personal PIN to open the safe. Safes have been placed on their apparatus and require a member of the company to open the safe to retrieve the drugs before entering the incident. The cost is approximately \$450/safe.

At Metro, we are looking to replace the current plastic box with a more secure system. As you know the current plastic box is not rigid and is susceptible to being pried open potentially allowing unauthorized access to the controlled substances. To address this problem we completed an exhaustive search for a rigid plastic box that could not be pried open without breaking the seal. We also wanted the box to be constructed of a clear plastic so that the drugs could be visibly accounted for without breaking the security lock.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find a plastic box that completely addressed all of the issues stated above, however we did locate a box that is currently being evaluated by two of our medics. The new box is a rigid; clear plastic that houses the old plastic box. The box inside of a box prevents unauthorized opening of the boxes while continuing to allow for visibility without breaking the seal.

Along with the new boxes comes a new security seal that secures the box tighter and doesn't break with movement inside the large drug boxes. The old seal did not provide enough security so it had to be replaced. If the new system does not work then we may be forced to go to a similar system used by the City.

FYI

- An RFP went out last month for a new electronic RMS program for EMS. This program includes an interface with Firehouse so that the two databases can share information.
- An RFP is planned to go out early this month for Stair Chairs. The chairs will be purchased this fiscal year and all medics will be so equipped.
- An RFP is planned to go out early this month for Power Gurneys. The purchase of the gurneys will not take place until after the end of this fiscal year and thus will be purchased with FY 2007-2008 budget money.
- Congratulations to Todd Lanigan and Ryan Manfredi for a field save on 11/30/06. The patient was released from the hospital after a 30+ day stay. Methodist hospital recognized their efforts as well with a letter of commendation.